

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 10, 11, 14-16, and 18-19 will be amended and claim 17 will be canceled. Thus, claims 1-16 and 18-23 will remain pending in the application.

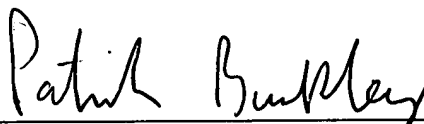
The claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments regarding the 35 USC 101 rejection. Applicants respectfully suggest that the claims as amended have practical applications and therefore do not lack patentable utility.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that previously pending claims 12-13 and 20-23 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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